

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALGAR 00295 100026Z

64

ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: EAIR, PINT, CA

SUBJ: BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IN QUEBEC: ALBERTA

EDITORIAL REACTION ON STOPPAGE SETTLEMENT

REF: 76 OTTAWA 2658

1. EDITORIAL COMMENT OF CALGARY ALBERTAN TO AGREEMENT
RESULTING IN RESUMPTION OF AIR TRAFFIC WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"ON THE FACE OF IT, IT SEEMS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
GAVE UP FAR MORE THAN IT GOT. THE END OF THE STRIKE
CAN ONLY BE WELCOMED. BUT THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR
THE MANNER OF ITS ENDING. TO GET THE PLANES OFF THE
GROUND, THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE GIVEN TOO MUCH GROUND.
BY ACCEPTING THE DEMANDS OF THE PILOTS AND THE CONTROL-
LERS THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE SET A MOST DANGEROUS
PRECEDENT. WHETHER THE DEMANDS WERE LEGITIMATE IS
NOT THE POINT. THE POINT IS, IN DEALING WITH THESE
DEMANDS, THE GOVERNMENT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT IT
IS AMENABLE TO MUSCLE. WHAT THAT WILL MEAN FOR THE
FUTURE - NOT ONLY OF BILINGUALISM, BUT ALSO OF THE
ECONOMY AND OF THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF THE NATION
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PAGE 02 CALGAR 00295 100026Z

ITSELF - IS OPEN TO QUESTION".

2. EDMONTON JOURNAL REPORTS:

"TO PUT THE REPORT OF THRE THREE-JUDGE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO THE TEST OF A FREE VOTE IN THE COMMONS IS A BAD IDEA, WHICH MAY WELL INFLAME THE COUNTRY ALL OVER AGAIN AND SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, IN FACT, TO LET THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION HEAR ALL THE FACTS AND VIEWPOINTS, AS IT WILL, AND SIMPLY ACCEPT ITS CONCLUSIONS AS A GENERAL BASIS FOR FUTURE AIR POLICY. EXCEPT FOR THAT DOZEN MP S WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY VOTED AGAINST BILINGUALISM NOT MANY OTHER ELECTED POLITICIANS, NO MATTER HOW THEY MAY FEEL ABOUT THE ISSUE, WILL DARE PUBLICLY VOTE AGAINST A RECOMMENDATION TO USE FRENCH IN QUEBEC'S AIR SPACE. HENCE THE VOTE WILL SERVE ONLY TO PUT A PHONEY STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHILE BAD FEELINGS WOULD LINGER ON.
HALL

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